

**FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 30, 2017**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was called to order at 3:07 pm on Monday, January 30, 2017 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bernie Costa, John Lachapelle, Eric Meth, and Holly Burbank.

Guests of the Board: Steve Chardon, Barbara Treadway, Trevor Presby, Karen Foss, Barbara Holt, Mary Brubaker, Peter Grote, Ginny Jeffreys.

Other Guests: Dawn Steele

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 - Steve Chardon and Barbara Treadway presented a petitioned article to be placed on the Town warrant for a full tax exemption for solar energy systems. Town Administrator Burbank had reviewed the warrant article, and the petition needed one more signature. Peter Grote, Karen Foss, Trevor Presby and Dawn Steele all signed the petitioned article, making it eligible to be placed on Town Warrant.

Steve spoke to the Board and noted that after his re-assessment by the Town, he would now be paying two-thirds of his savings in property taxes. He asked that the Town consider a full exemption of solar energy systems, instead of the current \$20,000 exemption. He also noted that at least 50% of NH Towns have adopted a full exemption for their residents with these systems.

Steve also noted that he does not make money on his solar system.

Selectmen Eric Meth noted that he approves of this idea.

The Board asked Town Administrator Burbank to get them a list of residents that currently have solar exemptions, and their assessed values. The Board thanked Steve and Barbara for presenting.

3:15 - Trevor Presby next spoke to the Board regarding his proposal to the Board on October 17, 2106 regarding the potential purchase of his 858 Easton Road property.

Chairman Costa noted that the Board was not ready to make a decision, and that it might have to wait until the 2018 Town Meeting.

The Board briefly discussed the building itself, and the proximity to the current Highway Garage. They have also asked Scott Leslie to put together dimensions of his vehicles to see if the building will be big enough for his needs. The Board noted that they hadn't even taken a tour of the building as of yet. Trevor said he would be happy to give a tour anytime if needed. Trevor was hoping to get an answer sooner than later on if the Town will move forward with this.

3:30 - The Capital Improvements Committee reviewed their year-end report with the Board. Karen Foss asked that the Board advertise when selling a piece of equipment.

Trevor and Karen spoke that there should be a strategic plan in place regarding road improvement.

Trevor Presby mentioned that perhaps waiting a year or two to work on sidewalk projects in Town. This way, he thought that maybe the Town could get more bang for their buck. By waiting a year or two, and working on bigger sections of sidewalk, the price for bringing in paving company might be cheaper.

The CIP Committee next discussed buildings, and asked if the Town would like them to do an inventory of them similar to what they did with vehicles. This would then give the Town a good idea as to what buildings are in the greatest need, and allow for a strategic plan moving forward.

With no further discussion, **Selectmen Meth made a motion to approve the CIP Report. Selectmen Lachapelle seconded. All were in favor.**

4:00 - The Board reviewed the following budgets:

- Executive - Town Administrator Burbank reviewed each line item with the Board and explained that under wages and salary, her salary would now be in the Executive budget and not split between Executive and Finance as was done with Sally's wages. After a brief discussion regarding other line items, the Board had no further questions.
- Planning & Zoning - The Board reviewed the proposed Planning & Zoning budget, and noted that they overspent their budget last year, and the amount being requested for this year was more than doubled. The Board asked Town Administrator Burbank to draft a letter to Planning & Zoning to ask that they review their budget again to see if anything can be cut/reduced from their budget for 2017, and to note that they should watch their budget and spending.
- Cemetery - Barbara Holt & Mary Brubaker reviewed their proposed budget with the Board.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

BOS Minutes 1/17/2017, 1/19/2017 & 1/23/2017 - Reviewed and approved by Board with amendments.

Transaction List - 02/02/2017 - approved and signed by the Board.

FOR DISCUSSION:

Septic Design - TTW, LLC (Map 22, Lot 4-8) - After review and a brief discussion, the Board tabled the review of the septic design, and asked Eric Meth to investigate, as the proposed plan shows two separate buildings, a house and a garage with an apartment over it, and it was questioned whether this was allowed in the Town's Zoning Regulations.

The Board reviewed and signed an understanding of services from Plodzik and Sanderson, the Town's Auditor.

Sansoucy & Gardner, Fulton & Waugh PLLC invoices will be moved to Non-Public Session, as they are legal matters.

John Lachapelle spoke briefly regarding the AirBnB issue that arose a couple weeks ago, and asked that the letter sent to the owners be forwarded to Planning & Zoning, and the ZBA. Town Administrator Burbank noted that she would take care of that.

ITEMS TO REVISIT

Items were tabled -
Cisterns and Fire Ponds 03/28/16 -
Tri-Town Recreation Agreement -
FD Generator in Trailer -
Updating Pole License Agreement
F150 vs F550 (Highway)
Purchasing & Bidding Policies

PUBLIC INPUT

Dawn Steele spoke to the Board and asked if Kim Cowles would continue to manage the website, or if Town Administrator Burbank would be taking that over. Holly noted that she would be looking at that in the future, but was not a top priority at this time with Town Meeting and budget preparation happening.

With no further public input, Eric Meth made a motion to enter closed session at 5:14pm. Bernie Costa seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The Board adjourned the non-public session at 6:35pm, and with no further discussion, adjourned the regular Board meeting at 6:37pm on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly A. Burbank
Town Administrator